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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9674
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE
RUEHAA/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 3967
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0180
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 4582
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0461
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0385
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 0464
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 4188
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0500
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7415
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1133
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR 0133
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAAIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC 0046
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0272
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 1815
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1192

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 TASHKENT 000566

NOFORN
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/20/2018

TAGS: PGOV PINR UZ

SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN: SHEDDING MORE LIGHT ON THE SHADOWY
PRESIDENTIAL APPARAT

REF: TASHKENT 348

Classified By: Poloff Steven Prohaska for reasons 1.4 (b, d).

(S/NF) Note: While we cannot verify whether the information
below is true, the source has reported reliably in the past.
End note.

Ataev Gaining Influence

11. (S/NF) A source inside the Government of Uzbekistan
recently provided us with information on developments inside
Uzbekistan's Presidential Apparatus. Within the National
Security Council (NSC), NSC Secretary Murat Ataev apparently
has strengthened his influence considerably since last summer
relative to First Deputy Secretary Mir-Akbar Hoji-Akbarovich
Rakhmonkulov. Rakhmonkulov had previously enjoyed more
regular access to President Karimov than Secretary Ataev, and
reported to Karimov twice per day. Rakhmonkulov's colleagues
in the NSC, however, perceived Rakhmonkulov--who has not
served as an NSS officer--as better at political intrigue
than substance. Ataev had conspired with a fellow National
Security Service (NSS) alumnus, NSC Deputy Secretary
Shukurullo Nurillaevich Muhammadkulov, to undermine
Rakhmonkulov. Their joint efforts resulted in Ataev
improving his relationship with President Karimov and taking
Rakhmonkulov's place in reporting to him directly.
Rakhmonkulov now spends half of each day at the Institute for
Strategic and Regional Studies Under the President of
Uzbekistan instead of at the NSC.

Krainov Screens Information for the President

12. (S/NF) The contact described Assistant to the President
Georgiy Alekseyevich Krainov as a very important figure in
the Apparatus who controls the Secretariat of the President.

Krainov, who has been one of the longest-serving members of the Presidential Apparat, reports directly to President Karimov and filters much of the information that goes to him. (Comment: President Karimov may thus be unaware of some of the initiatives and proposals we have asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to circulate to other parts of the Government of Uzbekistan because of Krainov's interference. End comment.) Because of his significant access to state secrets, Krainov is forbidden from attending diplomatic receptions and from meeting with foreign diplomats.

Significant NSS Influence, High Turnover

¶3. (S/NF) The National Security Service (NSS) wields significant influence in the Presidential Apparat, with the National Security Council composed of professional NSS officers or NSS informers that NSS Chairman Inoyatov has personally endorsed. Each year roughly one-third of the staff of the Presidential Apparat rotate out to other parts of the Government of Uzbekistan, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, hokimiyats, and Embassies overseas. (Note: The source also commented that officials typically paid large bribes to secure positions as hokims. End note.) Two NSS officers also control the Senate and Legislative Chamber, providing instructions that guide their actions.

Maintaining a Facade of Solidarity

TASHKENT 00000566 002 OF 002

¶4. (S/NF) Due to rumors that rivalries persist between Prime Minister Mirziyayev and First Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov, the NSS also had fabricated information that both individuals had reached a rapprochement prompted by the burgeoning friendship between their wives. The NSS had done this in an attempt to make the Government appear more unified than it actually is.

NORLAND